

I've been called a statistic among other derogatory terms ... but I think a state-tis-tic would be a more suitable word. I accept my blame in my past and feel judged by a record that only labels me. My criminal history is fueled by an addiction that I'm unaware of how to control. I've asked the system for help so many times but only achieved extensive incarceration and a bus ticket back to the same streets I'm trying to get away from.

With no support structure, money, or knowledge of how to proceed in a positive way; I've become hardened by the years spent away from society. Lawyers only sway toward pleas of stagnant time, which further corrupts my thinking; and periods of sobriety where I can be successful but eventually fail. I feel so obsolete from this world and hope maybe to help others like me before they ~~get~~ are pushed along the conveyor belt of the justice system and forgotten.

Sobriety is not just a word in life, it is a way of life that needs to be taught and adopted to free us from our addicted selves. Mentally I'm unstable, physically I'm tired, and emotionally I'm numb from the life I've subjected myself to for too long. I am one of 77 million Americans with a criminal record in a billion dollar a year industry which profits from recidivism of addicts like me who can't get the help they need!

I'm all I have in this world but I will never stop fighting. I only ask to be seen as a man who will never be perfect, but always strive to find perfection in others.

Pleading for help in V.A.,

Aaron Christopher Maxton

R.S.W. Regional Jail
in Front Royal; V.A.